

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An occupant protection system comprising:

an airbag disposed between a seat cushion and a seat pan and extending longitudinally along the width of a seat, wherein the airbag is configured to inflate to thereby push up the front of the seta cushion from below; and

a bag enclosure extending longitudinally and enclosing an intermediate part of the airbag.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the bag enclosure encloses a portion of the airbag located at the longitudinal center of the airbag.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein the bag enclosure encloses a plurality of longitudinal intermediate parts of the airbag.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the bag enclosure encloses substantially the entire airbag.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the perimeter of the enclosure is smaller than the perimeter of the airbag in an inflated condition.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein the a longitudinal length of the enclosure is from about forty to about one hundred percent of a longitudinal length of the airbag.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the a longitudinal length of the enclosure is from about fifty to about ninety percent of a longitudinal length of the airbag.
8. The system of claim 1, wherein the bag enclosure is connected to the seat pan.
9. The system of claim 8, wherein the airbag is positioned in a recess in the seat pan, wherein the recess extends along the width of the seat.
10. The system of claim 9, further comprising a step surface extending along a front rim of the recess to prevent the airbag from moving forward when an occupant applies pressure to the airbag.
11. The system of claim 1, wherein a gas generator is disposed in the airbag is fastened to the seat pan by a fastener passing through the airbag.
12. The system of claim 11, wherein the airbag is sandwiched between the gas generator and the seat pan.
13. The system of claim 1, further comprising a cover for covering the airbag, wherein the cover is configured to be broken or deformed when the airbag inflates.
14. An airbag device configured to prevent submarining of an occupant seated in a seat in a vehicle, comprising an airbag positioned under a seat cushion and extending along a width of a seat pan, wherein the airbag is configured to push up

left and right sides of the seat cushion from below..

15. The device of claim 14, further comprising a bag enclosure configured to enclose a portion of the bag; and wherein a circumference of a cross-section of the bag enclosure in the width direction of the seat pan is smaller than a corresponding cross-sectional circumference of the enclosed portion of the airbag when inflated and not enclosed by the bag enclosure.

16. The device of claim 15, wherein the bag enclosure is attached to the seat pan and configured to restrain the airbag to the seat pan and restrict forward movement of the airbag when inflated.